PRESENT—*cont.*

Swami, Bar.-at-Law, Mr. K. V. R.
Syed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur, Nattam Dubash Kadir Sahib.
Tajudin Sahib Bahadur, Syed.
Tampoe, I.C.S., Mr. A. McG. C.
Thomas, Mr. Daniel.
Tulasiram, Mr. L. K.
Uppi Sahib Bahadur, K.
Vanavudaiya Gounder, Mr. S. V.
Venkatapati Raju, Mr. P. C.
Venkatarama Ayyar, Mr. K. R.
Venkataramana Ayyangar, Mr. C. V.
Venkatarangam Nayudu, Mr. C.
Venkataratnam, Mr. B.
Venkiah, Mr. S.
Watson, I.C.S., Mr. H. A.
Wright, Mr. W. O.
Zamindar of Gollapalli.
Zamindar of Kallikota.
Zamindar of Mirzapuram.
Zamindar of Seithur.
Zamindar of Singampatti.

II

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Public Health

Free distribution of quinine.

* 423 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. Saldanha : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) to what extent the malaria scourge is prevalent in the Madras Presidency ;

(*b*) what steps are being taken to combat it ;

(*c*) what steps Government have taken (i) to distribute the quinine free, and (ii) in what parts of the Presidency ;

(*d*) by which agencies the distribution is to be undertaken and what will be the quantity and quality of the quinine to be distributed ; and

(*e*) what steps Government have taken to reduce the price of Government quinine sold by the agency of the post office and other agencies and to improve the quality of the quinine sold ?

A.—(*a*) Figures relating to mortality from 'Malaria' are included under 'Fevers.' The Director of Public Health has reported that for the years 1921–1926 the average annual mortality from fevers was nearly 322,000 and that a very large proportion of this total is due to 'Malaria.'

A list [a] showing specially malarious tracts in the Presidency is appended.

(*b*) Malarial investigations have been carried out from time to time by Special Malaria Officers and Investigation Units attached to the King Institute, Guindy, in regard to some of the most highly infected places and their reports have been communicated to the local bodies concerned for necessary action. Public Health Administration is largely in the hands of local bodies and a great deal of work connected with the prevention of malaria has necessarily to be left to them. The Government are, however, fully alive to the menace and in April 1927 appointed a Special Malaria Officer with the requisite establishment to investigate the incidence of malaria in selected areas and to

[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 215-225 infra.

advise Government and the local bodies concerned in the matter of eradication. This malariologist has already carried out investigations in Bellary, Vriddhachalam, Vizagapatam, Hospet, Coonoor, certain villages in the Koilkuntla and Nandikotkur taluks in Kurnool district, Siruguppa area including the wet villages on the Tungabhadra, Cuddapah, Tirupati, Chiratanur, Tirumalai and Seethagundy Tea estate, Kollengode. Necessary action is being taken by the local authorities concerned or by the Government on the reports submitted by the Special Officer.

(*c*) & (*d*) A copy [a] of G.O. No. 1059, P.H., dated 14th May 1928, is laid on the table. The Surgeon-General has submitted a scheme for the free distribution of quinine in the Agency tracts. The quinine manufactured in the Government Quinine Factory will be distributed and will be of the same quality as is supplied to the Medical Stores Department.

(*e*) The question of reducing the price of quinine is now under the consideration of the Government. They have not received any complaint recently regarding the quality of the quinine sold.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" With reference to (*b*), (*c*) and (*d*), may I enquire, having regard to the large areas in different districts where malaria prevails what is the maximum amount Government intend to spend for the free distribution of quinine ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Government have not fixed any maximum but so far as they find it necessary quinine will be supplied free."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware that the late Minister for Public Health stated in some place that four lakhs would be spent for the purpose ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"I am not aware of the pronouncement but if spending four lakhs is necessary I do not think Government would grudge it."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I enquire whether in the district of South Kanara there are only four taluks in which malaria is prevalent and whether there are not parts of Mangalore taluk in which malaria is prevalent ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"I am not aware of it, Sir ; probably the hon. Member's information is correct."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" With reference to clause (*d*), may I know if it is the intention of the Government to reduce the price of quinine so that they may not make any profit out of its manufacture ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" When the whole thing is considered that will be one chief aspect for consideration."

Rao Bahadur C. S. RATHNASABAPATHI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether Government would be pleased to charge a uniform rate with regard to the supply of quinine to Government institutions and local bodies ? "

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a Printed on pages 222-225 infra (Appendix I).

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" I believe there is not much difference in price now and I will consider it."

Rao Bahadur C. S. RATHNASABAPATHI MUDALIYAR :—" With reference to clause (b), in view of the great deal of work in connexion with the prevention of malaria by the local bodies, may I know whether the Government will be pleased to increase the grants to expedite the drainage schemes pending with the department ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" The matter will be duly considered."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" In view of the fact that malaria is prevalent in certain places of the Kurnool and Bellary districts, may I know whether Government has made any arrangement regarding the free supply of quinine to these tracts ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" The list of places to which quinine has to be supplied free is also appended."

Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU :—" With reference to the free supply of quinine, may I suggest to the Government the desirability of restoring the practice of giving at least to the village karnams and headmen quinine for free distribution ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" That suggestion will be considered. Probably when the Government empowered the divisional officers and the tahsildars, they thought that they will in turn entrust it to village officers."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" May I know whether in view of the fact that the Salem taluk has got the whole of the Shervaroys with 50 villages in it, the people of the taluk will have the benefit of free supply of quinine ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" In the Salem taluk there are a large number of villages affected by malaria and what particular places should be chosen I cannot say off-hand ; I shall consider the question."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" The Shervaroys and the villages surrounding it."

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" It will be considered."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" May I know under whose requisition a special malaria officer was deputed to make a survey of the Ootacamund municipality ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Notice."

Education

Opening of group III classes of the B.A. course in the Ceded Districts College, Anantapur.

* 424 Q.—Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state, with reference to G.O. No. 1540, Law (Education), dated 23rd July 1928—

(a) why the question of the opening of the classes in group III of the B.A. course in the Ceded Districts College, Anantapur, was allowed to stand over by the Director of Public Instruction ;